Media Advisory



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital celebrates National Veterans and Military Families Month 2018 with events honoring Veterans and their families

Hines, III. — Yesterday evening, President Donald Trump <u>declared November 2018 the second annual National Veterans and Military Families Month</u> to "salute the brave and dedicated patriots who have worn the uniform of the United States, and…celebrate the extraordinary military families whose selfless service and sacrifice make our military the finest in the world."

Beginning in 2017, President Trump proclaimed November Veterans and Military Families

Month, marking the first time America celebrated Veterans and military families for the entire
month and not just on Veterans Day, in keeping with the President's strong focus on improving
care and benefits to our nation's heroes.

That tradition continues again this year with more than 300 events at VA hospitals, benefits offices and cemeteries across the country, including:

- senior leader visits to VA facilities
- open houses
- town halls
- benefits claims clinics
- volunteer recognitions
- homeless Veteran initiative events
- suicide prevention events
- faith-based community events
- flag planting tributes at national cemeteries

To celebrate Veterans and Military Families Month locally, Hines VA will hold the following events honoring Veterans and their families throughout the month of November:

- pulp: The Healing Arts Exhibit, Wednesday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m. 3:00 p.m.
- Hines VA Veterans Town Hall, Wednesday, Nov. 7, 4 5:00 p.m.
- Veterans Day Parade, Saturday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m.
- Veterans Day Recognition Ceremony, Saturday, Nov. 10, 11 a.m.
- Veterans Resource Fair and Celebration, Saturday, Nov. 10 11:30 a.m. 2 p.m.
- Hines VA Legal Clinic, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 12:00 2:30 p.m.

This year's celebration of Veterans and Military Families Month caps an <u>unprecedented period</u> <u>of improvement for VA</u>, as the department has made groundbreaking progress over the last two years in the areas of accountability, transparency and efficiency across the department while enjoying an important series of legislative successes.

"At VA, Veterans and their families are at the center of everything we do. Veterans and Military Families Month is an opportunity for us to honor the service of these patriots while educating communities about VA benefits and services and our commitment to customer service improvement," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said.

"We are proud to host Veterans from the Chicagoland area and recognize Veterans everywhere for the service and sacrifice they have made for our freedom," said Steven Braverman, M.D., Director, Hines VA Hospital. "This is an opportunity to showcase the world-class care and services VA provides our nation's Veterans."

The full list of national events for Veterans and Military Families month is available at this link.

ABOUT HINES

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital is one of VA's busiest and most complex medical centers, offering primary, extended and specialty care to Veterans. Hines VA is a tertiary care referral center for its region, operating 483 beds and six community-based outpatient clinics in Hoffman Estates, Kankakee, Oak Lawn, Aurora, LaSalle, and Joliet. In 2017, Hines VA completed more than 850,000 appointments for more than 58,000 Veterans.

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